

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 1-33 are currently under examination in the application. Applicants acknowledge and thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 1-15 and 26-33 have been allowed. By the above amendment, claims 16-25 have been cancelled. The above amendments are not to be construed as an acquiescence with regard to the Examiner's rejections and are made without prejudice to prosecution of any subject matter modified and/or removed by this amendment in a related divisional, continuation and/or continuation-in-part application.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, FIRST PARAGRAPH

Claims 16-25 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection on the basis that the skilled artisan, in view of the instant disclosure, and further in view of the general level of knowledge in the art regarding the role of occludins in the pathogenesis of human cancer, would indeed understand and appreciate how to practice the invention of claims 16-25 without undue experimentation and with a reasonable expectation of success. Nevertheless, in the interest of advancing the subject application to allowance, Applicants have cancelled claims 16-25 at this time without prejudice to prosecution of cancelled subject matter in a related divisional, continuation and/or continuation-in-part application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

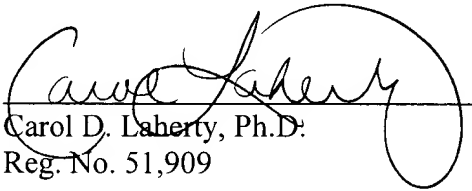
Application No. 09/450,073
Reply to Office Action dated March 13, 2003

All of the remaining claims in the application stand allowed. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any additional questions, please contact the undersigned attorney at (206) 622-4900.

Respectfully submitted,

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